

Apple River Canyon

S T A T E P A R K

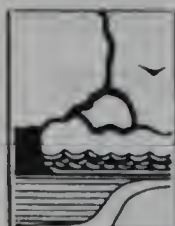
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T h e P a r k

Apple River Canyon State Park is in the hilly northwest part of Illinois in Jo Daviess County near the Wisconsin border. This scenic canyon area was formed by the action of the winding waters of Apple River. Limestone bluffs, deep ravines, springs, streams and wildlife characterize this area which was once part of a vast sea bottom that stretched from the Alleghenies to the Rockies.

H i s t o r y

The town of Millville was established where the park is now, but not a trace of it remains. Named after its two sawmills, Millville became a stop on the Galena-Chicago stage route and flourished until 1854 when the Illinois Central Railroad, building its line from Freeport to Galena, passed four miles north of the town. In 1892 a devastating flood washed out the dam, swept away many buildings and drove out the people of the town forever.

The park was purchased by the State of Illinois in 1932. Today it totals 523 acres.

The Natural Scene

Flowing endlessly for countless centuries, the Apple River has cut through the masses of limestone, dolomite and shale until massive cliffs now rise high above the water and canyons have formed. Vast ages of water and erosion widened and deepened the crevices as rivers and streams cut their way through the stone. Close-up views of the colorful canyon reveal walls dotted with mosses, lichens and tenacious bushes which have found crevices to hold their roots on the sheer walls.

The glacial sweep which ironed out hills and filled valleys in other parts of the state left this area unscratched. This circumstance accounts for the large number of fossil remains to be found near the surface here. It also was responsible for the easy availability of the lead veins that has much to do with the early development of this section of Illinois.

The park contains such wildlife as deer, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, eagles, hawks and 47 varieties of birds. At least 14 different ferns and more than 500 different herbaceous plants and 165 varieties of flowers can be seen throughout the park.





Facilities

Picnicking: Four picnic areas with tables, drinking water and toilets are along the river's banks. There are also three shelters. Cooking may be done on camp or park stoves. Playground equipment is provided in the youth group camping and main picnic areas.

Camping: In addition to primitive sites, the park offers trailer sites with a sanitary dump station. Camping permits must be obtained from the park office. A youth group camping area is also available. Youth groups are required to have reservations.

Fishing: The Apple River has a variety of fish including smallmouth bass, sunfish, crappie, carp and suckers. When economically feasible the Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocks Apple River with keeper-size trout. The river is one of several in the state where the department releases this fish. Trout require clean, clear, cold water and in the spring

Apple River meets these requirements. However, the fish do not live through the hot summer months, so the stream is stocked on a put-and-take basis.

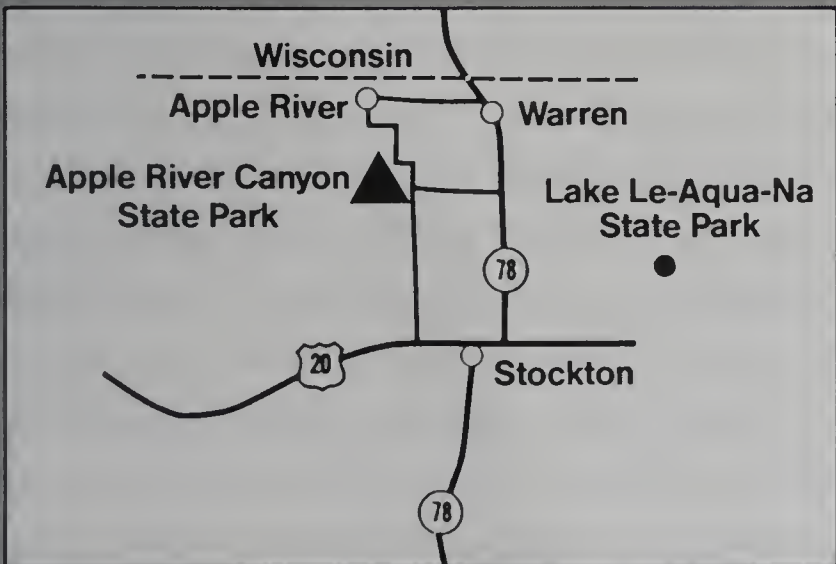
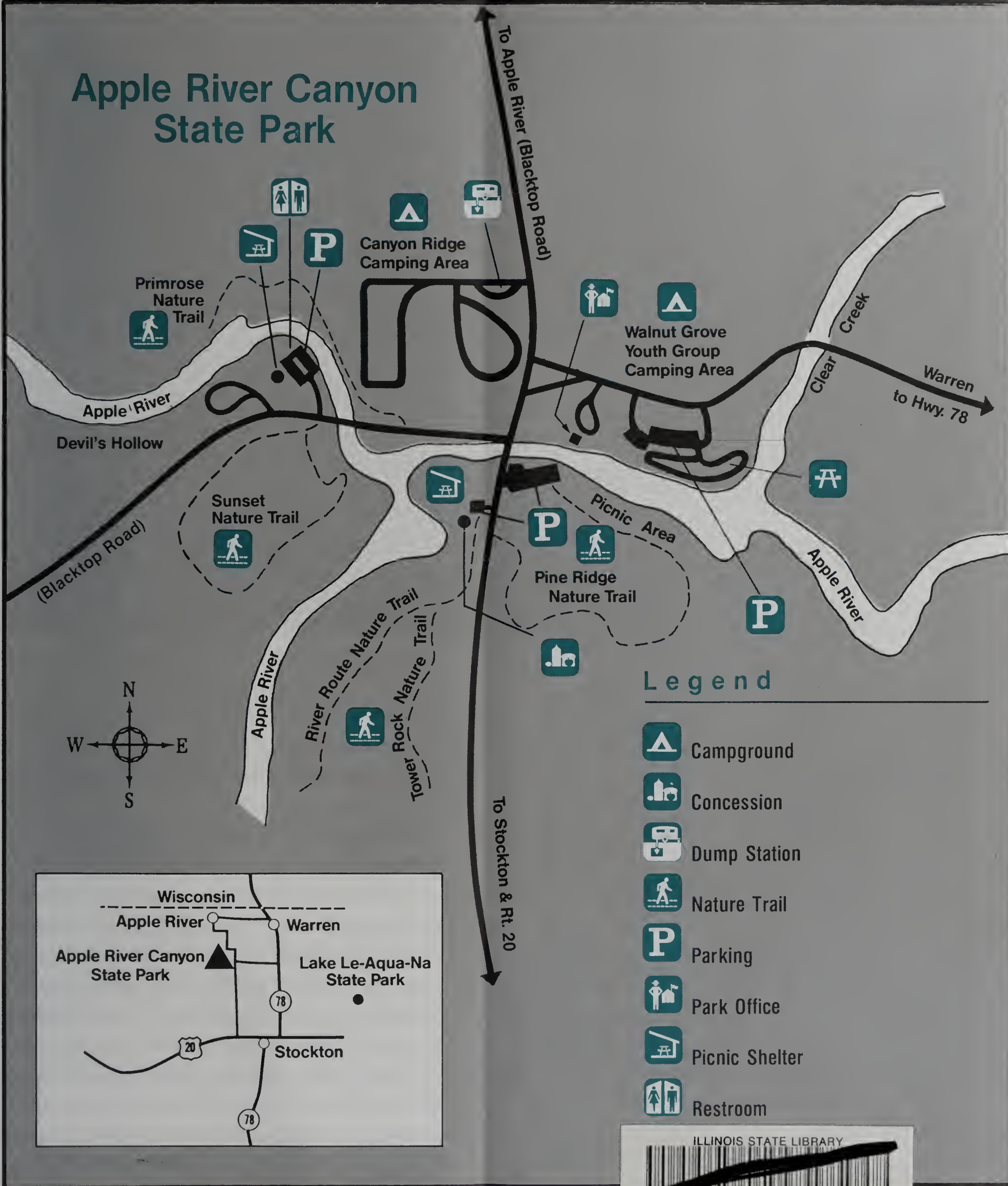
Swimming: Swimming, wading and rafting are not allowed.

Boating: Boating is not permitted on the Apple River.

Trails: Five trails — Pine Ridge, Tower Rock, River Route, Sunset and Primrose — wind through the woods, bluffs and along the scenic Apple River. Trails average 1.5 miles in length.

Nearby: Other DNR-managed properties within Jo Daviess County are near Apple River Canyon State Park, including Witkowsky Wildlife Area and Tapley Woods Nature Preserve, both of which offer public hunting. Wards Grove Nature Preserve and Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve are also nearby. For information about these areas or the park, contact Apple River Canyon State Park, 8763 E. Canyon Road, Apple River, Ill. 61001, phone (815) 745-3302.

Apple River Canyon State Park

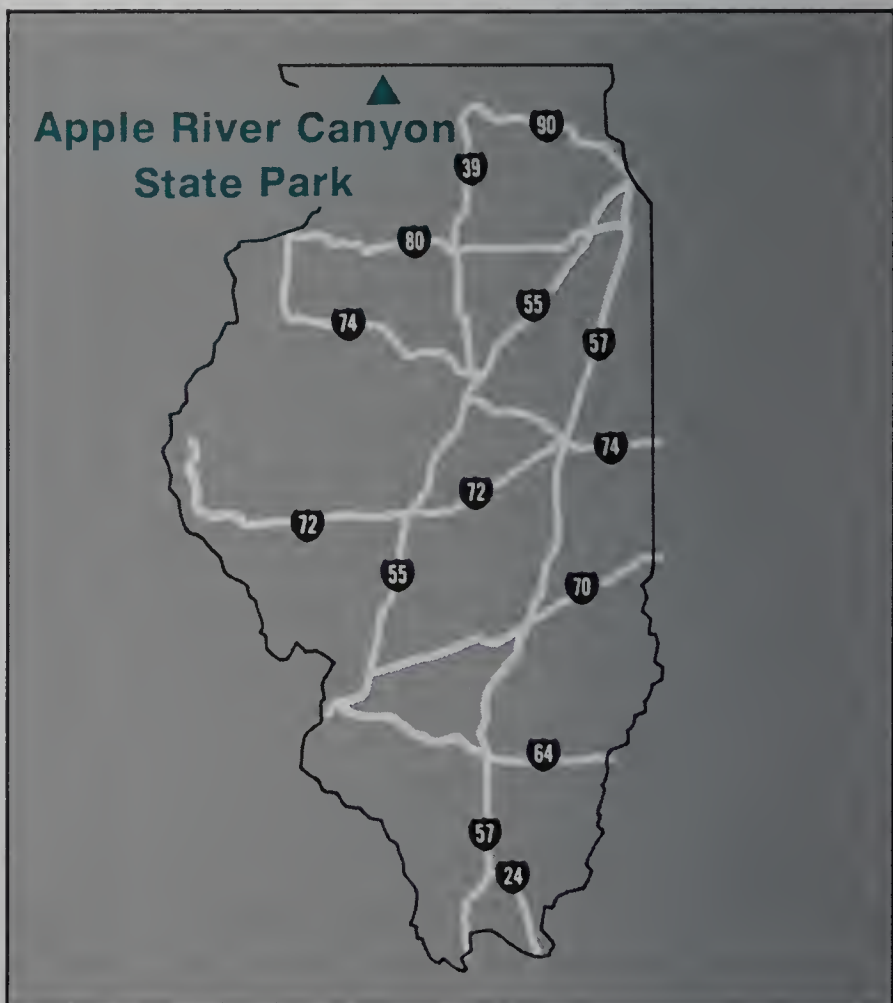


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Apple River Canyon State Park

8763 E. Canyon Rd., Apple River, Ill. 61001, 815-745-3302

- Park open daily except Christmas Day.
- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks write to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Service, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Ill., 62701-1787, or call (217) 782-7454.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.

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Natural Resources Information (217) 782-9175 for TDD only
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Jim Edgar
Governor

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